

June 2, 1940



By *Will Eisner*



SOMEWHERE IN THE CROOKED NARROW ALLEYS THAT THREAD LIKE GREY VEINS THROUGH THE DARK HEART OF CHINATOWN, A FIGURE DARTS FROM SHADOW TO SHADOW.



DOWN THROUGH A MAN-HOLE IN A GUTTER.



AND AT LAST...



SUDDENLY..



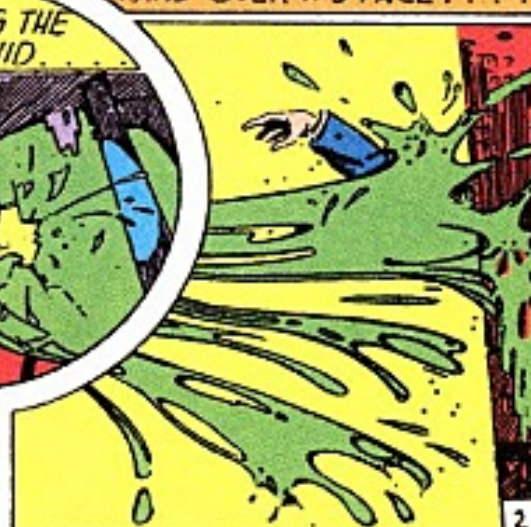
AGILELY, WITH THE SPEED OF A PANTHER, DR. COBRA LEADS. . .



CLAW-LIKE FINGERS CLOSE ABOUT DENNY'S FACE...OFF BALANCE, HE IS HURLED AGAINST THE WALL..HE FIRES BLINDLY.



WITH A DEAFENING HISS, THE LIQUID GUSHES OUT IN AN EXPLODING STREAM! DENNY IS CAUGHT IN IT.. INSTINCTIVELY, HE THROWS HIS HAND OVER HIS FACE. . .



...SMASHING THE VAT OF LIQUID.

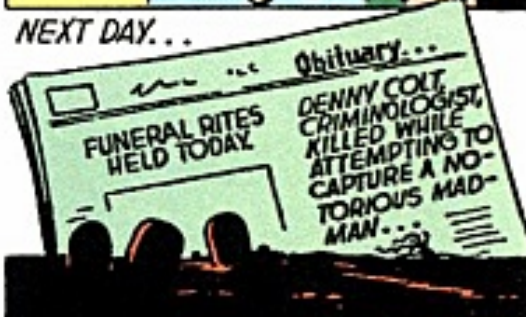
DRENCHED IN THE LIQUID, DENNY SINKS TO THE FLOOR... DR. COBRA DRAGS HIS AIDE OUT THROUGH A SECRET PASSAGE...



AND BEHIND THEM, DIMLY OUTLINED BY THE STRANGE LIGHT CAST BY THE EQUALLY STRANGE CHEMICAL, THE BODY OF DENNY COLT LIES RIGID... UNMOVING!



A FEW MINUTES LATER, A SIREN SHATTERS THE QUIET OF THE NIGHT AS DOLAN AND HIS MEN ARRIVE ON THE SCENE...



THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, IN A SUB-URBAN CEMETERY, A FANTASTIC SIGHT MEETS THE EYE...



AN HOUR LATER, AT POLICE HEAD-QUARTERS, IN COM-MISSIONER DOLAN'S OFFICE...





NOW THEN, THERE'S A BIG REWARD OUT FOR THE CAPTURE OF DR. COBRA... I'VE COME TO CLAIM IT! HAVE THE MONEY HERE AND I'LL DELIVER COBRA IN THREE HOURS!

COME OUT OF THE SHADOWS!



AND LET YOU SEE MY FACE?? HARDLY!! BUT FOR IDENTIFICATION, YOU MIGHT CALL ME... THE "SPIRIT."



THE SPIRIT, EH?? THAT VOICE... MMM. SAY, JOE, GET "HAPPY," THE CORONER, IN HERE!



"HAPPY", YOU SURE Denny COLT WAS DEAD? SURE?? LOOK HERE, DOLAN, I BEEN PRONOUNCIN' DEATHS F'R NIGH ON TWENTY YEARS! RECKON I KNOW A DEAD MAN WHEN I SEE ONE!



I TELL YOU, O'ROURKE, THE OLD MAN'S BEEN 'TECHED' EVER SINCE DENNY COLT DIED!



A FEW MINUTES LATER, DOLAN IS IN THE STREET. WILDWOOD CEMETERY, AND HURRY!!! OFFICIAL BUSINESS! I'M GOING TO VISIT A DEAD FRIEND. Y-Y-YAS SUH!



AT THE WILDWOOD GRAVEYARD, TWO MEN TRUDGE FEARFULLY ACROSS A MOON-LIT PATH...

WHEN'D YA GIT THE MESSAGE, POKEY? HOUR AGO GIMD. I'M SCAIRT!



A GUY SLIPPED DIS INTO ME HAND... A TINY TOMBSTONE!



PUT UP YOUR HANDS! THIS IS THE SPIRIT!

WHAT DO YOU WANT?



GET INTO THAT TOMB! I'LL TELL YOU LATER!

THE SPIRIT FOLLOWS THEM INTO THE HALF-LIT TOMB. HE DOES NOT NOTICE ANOTHER FIGURE SLIP IN SILENTLY BEHIND HIM...

I AM THE SPIRIT OF GOOD... BUT I CAN ALSO BE THE SPIRIT OF EVIL, SO...



TELL ME, WHERE IS DR. COBRA HIDING?

I DON'T KNOW... I SWEAR I DON'T!

I DON'T KNOW, HONEST!



YOU'RE LYING! BOTH OF YOU! NOW, LISTEN TO ME, YOU RATS! WHEN THE CLOCK STRIKES TWELVE, THE SPIRIT WILL GET DR. COBRA WHEREVER HE IS... NOW, BEAT IT!



HA-HA-HA!! LOOK AT THEM RUN!

WHAT'S YOUR GAME, SPIRIT?

AT THE SOUND OF COMMISS-
SIONER DOLAN'S VOICE, THE SPIRIT TURNS. THE LIGHT FALLS FULL ON HIM, REVEALING HIS FACE!



DENNY COLT-
ALIVE!!

I THOUGHT I RECOGNIZED YOUR VOICE BACK IN MY OFFICE... CAME DOWN HERE ON A HUNCH TO MAKE SURE YOU WERE DEAD!

OFFICIALLY I'M DEAD! BUT REALLY, AS YOU SEE, I'M QUITE ALIVE!



WHEN I TRIED TO CAPTURE COBRA, THE VAT WITH SOME CHEMICALS IN IT SMASHED! I WAS PUT IN A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION! BELIEVING ME DEAD, YOU FELLOWS BURIED ME... I CAME TO SEVERAL HOURS LATER AND BROKE OUT OF MY GRAVE!



BUT WHY THIS "SPIRIT" BUSINESS?

NO TIME FOR A LOT OF EXPLAINING! I'VE WORK TO DO!



COME ON, DOLAN! THOSE TWO RATS WILL RUN RIGHT TO COBRA AND WARN HIM!

OH, I GET IT... A RUSE! THEY'LL LEAD US RIGHT TO HIM! YOU MAY BE DEAD BUT BY GOSH, YOU'RE STILL A GOOD COP!



OUR SCENE SHIFTS TO THE WATERFRONT... A FOG ROLLING IN FROM THE SEA BLANKETS THE NIGHT, SHROUDING IN A CLOAK OF GREY MIST THE EVIL THAT LURKS UNDER THE QUAYS.



...GUY
CALLS HIM-
SELF THE
SPIRIT HAD US
IN THE GRAVE
YARD!



SOON THEIR VIGIL IS REWARD-
ED... THE SPIRIT CLIMBS VERY
SLOWLY DOWN THE WATER-
LOGGED LADDER UNDER
THE DOCK.



SUDDENLY...



MEANWHILE, DR. COBRA PLANS A
HASTY DEPARTURE.



RELENTLESSLY, THE SPIRIT FOLLOWS COBRA...



AT A TURN, COBRA WHIRLS SHARPLY...



NIMBLY, HE SWINGS TO A LEDGE OVER THE PATH...

